

Senate Resolution 497

By: Senators Stephens of the 27th, Wiles of the 37th and Staton of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Election Laws; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has significantly changed its methods for voting in the past
3 several years with the advent of electronic voting technology; and
- 4 WHEREAS, there have been substantial concerns expressed recently concerning the security
5 of the ballots cast on this new technology and the possibility of increased election fraud; and
- 6 WHEREAS, during this same time period, the federal government has imposed significant
7 new laws with regard to voting that have also altered the manner of voting in Georgia; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the increased deployment of many Georgians who are on active duty or serve
9 in the reserve components of our armed forces to locations around the globe has highlighted
10 the difficulties that such men and women and their dependents as well as other Georgians
11 who reside overseas have in voting and participating in the political process; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the deadlines and procedures for voting in Georgia need to be reviewed to
13 determine what is needed to ensure that persons who need to vote by absentee ballot can
14 exercise that ability and have their votes count; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the security of the new voting technology needs to be reviewed to determine
16 how best to protect and ensure the security of the votes cast on such devices, to ensure that
17 the votes recorded on such devices are the votes cast, and to determine if there is a need for
18 additional audit capabilities of such systems to ensure that such systems work properly and
19 to ensure voter confidence in the results of elections using such devices; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the entire election process in Georgia needs to be reviewed to make certain that
21 this state has the most efficient, convenient, and secure process possible.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
2 Study Committee on Election Laws to be composed of five members of the Senate to be
3 appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments, who shall designate one member as the
4 chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
6 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
7 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
8 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
9 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
10 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
11 shall not receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
12 committees for attending the meetings of the committee. The committee shall not meet on
13 more than five days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes
14 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
15 any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2005. The committee shall stand
16 abolished on December 31, 2005.